



# The Sierra Log

Newsletter of the Anne Arundel County Group of the Sierra Club, Maryland Chapter

Volume 25, Issue 5

October/November 2009

## Officers/Committee Chairs

- Chair, and Chapter Delegate –  
David Prosten..... 410-263-6341
- Vice-Chair –  
Judy Mauriello410- jzmaur@gmail.com
- Secretary –  
Joan Willey ..... 410-267-0716
- Treasurer –  
Gene Milgram ..... 410-349-2771
- Alternate Chapter Delegate –  
Ellen Pepin..... 410-674-6127
- Conservation –  
Steve Satzberg ..... 410-757-6347  
Judy Mauriello...jzmaur@gmail.com
- Education –  
Judy Mauriello.. jzmaur@gmail.com
- Legislative, and Programs –  
Vacancy
- Membership –  
Adele Degnan..... 410-757-7899  
Ellen Pepin..... 410-674-6127
- Newsletter –  
Pat Church ..... 410-224-3384
- Outings, and Database Manager –  
Jan Hoffmaster ..... 410-384-7344
- Political –  
David Prosten..... 410-263-6341
- Publicity –  
Liz Vanden Heuvel..... 410-267-9009
- Recycling –  
Sue Youngs410-757-4492 jzmaur@gmail.com -647-9641  
John Cochran ..... 410-268-6194

Website:  
[maryland.sierraclub.org/  
annearundel](http://maryland.sierraclub.org/annearundel)

## Homeport Farms Reforestation Plan

*Liz Vanden Heuvel*

There is now a specific plan for reforesting about an acre of the land set aside for a park at the Homeport Farms location. You can come and learn about trees that will do well there, and how to re-create a small forest of trees. The date for this work is set for Saturday, October 17 at 10:00 am.

Trees will be provided through Anne Arundel County's Critical Area program. All you need to learn how to assist with this endeavor is a pair of gloves, comfortable shoes and the time to plant about 300 trees and shrubs. The ground will be prepared and the holes already dug, ready for small trees. Trees and shrubs native to this area will be selected, probably several kinds of oaks. Of course, they will need to be watered by us. Later on there will be an opportunity to sign up for watering days and to participate in learning about the trees' growth and care.

If we get 20 volunteers, that would mean five trees per person. Families, adults and older children are welcome to participate. Contact Liz by email, [liz2vh@olg.com](mailto:liz2vh@olg.com), or call 410-267-9009 if you have an hour or two that day. Refreshments will be served.

## Electronic Newsletter Now Available!

Help us save paper, postage, labor – and ultimately a few trees – by opting to see our newsletter on the Web. Instead of mailing you a printed copy every two months we'll send you a notification via e-mail, containing a link to an electronic edition on our Club website.

Send an e-mail to [JHoff2370@verizon.net](mailto:JHoff2370@verizon.net), with "electronic newsletter" in the subject line, and your name and address in the body of the message (so we can remove you from the printed version mailing list).

We are developing a database exclusively for this project and will not share your e-mail address. This is not mandatory – if you do not respond, you will still receive a paper copy in the regular mail.

# Calendar of Events

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Sierra Club Outings are open to all members and non-members.

All outings begin at the trailhead. In the interests of conservation and convenience, the Sierra Club encourages carpooling to outings from the meeting place. However, the carpool is not part of the actual outing, and the Sierra Club assumes no liability for it. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel. A modest driver reimbursement, if any, can be arranged between the driver and passengers.

Reservations are not necessary for outings unless so stated. In order to participate in one of the Sierra Club's outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, please call 415-977-5630 or see the website:

[www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/](http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/)

For general information about the local club, call David Prosten at 410-263-6341.

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## Ex-Comm Meetings –

The Executive Committee meets on the second Thursday of every month, except August and December, in Room 114 at Calvary United Methodist Church on Rowe Blvd in Annapolis. 6:30 pm. All are welcome – bring a friend!

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## Newsletter Deadline – Friday, November 13

December 2009/ January 2010 issue. Call 410-224-3384, or email the editor, [patchurch@comcast.net](mailto:patchurch@comcast.net).

## Sunday, October 11 – Hike Old Rag Mountain, VA

Strenuous 7-9 mile hike (depending on parking availability-expect crowds). The climb features sharp ascents, boulders, rock scrambling, and great views, if weather permits. We will be discussing the wildlife that we see, especially birds.

Those with fear of heights should call the leader. Bring lunch, water. Depart at 7:30 am from the west lot of the Broken Land Parkway Park & Ride at Rt. 32. Shine only. Call Stacy Epperson, 410-987-7533 or [tryswim@comcast.net](mailto:tryswim@comcast.net).

## Saturday, October 17 – Homeport Farms Reforestation

Learn and experience reforestation of about an acre of land at the new Homeport Farms Park; 10:00 am. Plant a tree and you will be making the future brighter in our county. Contact Liz for more information and to sign up. Send an email to [liz2vh@olg.com](mailto:liz2vh@olg.com), or call 410-267-9009.

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## Save the Date – 2009/10 Science Fair March 6, 2010

An early heads-up! Our club has awarded prizes for our 'best environmental projects' at the local Science and Engineering Fair for the past several years. We (our judges) always have a good time, learn to appreciate the talent our students have, and gain knowledge ourselves at the AACPS Regional Science and Engineering Fair. So we thought we'd give you plenty of warning to clear your calendars for the morning of Saturday, March 6, 2010. This is the date for this school year's Fair, to be held again at North County High School.

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## Outings Leaders Needed

The Sierra Club is currently seeking members who enjoy the outdoors and would like to become Sierra Club Outings Leaders.

There are two basic requirements. First, leaders must complete the Outdoor Leaders Training 101 (which is available online); and second, have completed a basic first aid course within the past four years. The Anne Arundel Group, with prior approval, will reimburse leaders for their first aid training.

If interested, please contact the Outings Committee Chair-Mr. Jan C. Hoffmaster at (410) 384-7344 or [jhoff2370@verizon.net](mailto:jhoff2370@verizon.net).



## Executive Committee Nominations Sought

The 1,400-member Anne Arundel group of the Sierra Club – your group – has an Executive Committee election coming up, and candidate nominations are being sought.

The Executive Committee meets once a month in Annapolis to chart the course for the group's activities and to handle the wide range of tasks it takes for a volunteer organization like ours to function. No experience is necessary, no age minimum or maximum, no requirements of any sort beyond membership and a commitment to Sierra Club goals and an interest in working with like-minded people who care about the environment.

Self-nominations are welcome. Terms are two years. Five positions will be open for the ballot. To place a name in nomination, call Chair David Prosten at 410-263-6341, or drop us a note at PO Box 3620, Annapolis MD 21403.

This is a great opportunity to get more involved in the club and the broader community and to have a serious impact in the fight for a cleaner environment. We look forward to hearing from you.

## Paddling Blackwater Refuge

*Liz Vanden Heuvel*

Nine of us set out on a bright sunny day to explore and learn about the Blackwater Refuge and its paddling trails. Just as we started out on the water, a calm day ended with a goodly wind from the north. This wind caused one couple with a light-weight boat to turn back, but the rest of us kept going.

We saw some eagles high overhead, blue herons and vultures. Few shorebirds were in evidence, perhaps due to the wind or their having already headed south. Migratory ducks and other water fowl have not appeared yet.

We went up Buttons Creek both to get some respite from the wind and to find a lunch place. We sat among tall pines, and a pomegranate tree bearing fruit was spotted.

We returned to the main trail for another hour before heading back to the put-in. The wind was supposed to be in our favor and carry us back with little effort but it had diminished greatly and it was cloudy and cold. I saw an eagle roosting in a tree just after I put my kayak back on the car!

It was a great group of people to be with and I thoroughly enjoyed myself, feeling that maybe I'm not too old for this! Come and join us next time and let us know what trips you would like, and if you would like to become a trip leader. It's easy!



# RECYCLE

**Your old cell phones, pagers,  
PDAs & chargers at your nearest**

**STAPLES**

**a portion of the proceeds  
come back to Sierra Club!**



Explore, enjoy & protect the planet



Anne Arundel County Group  
David Prosten, Group Chair  
PO Box 3620  
Annapolis, MD 21403

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